

## Message Text

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SUBJ: PROGRESS REPORT NO. 2 TITLE II RICE PROGRAM - ACTIVITIES OF  
THE VOLAGS

REF: (A) STATE 47266 (B) PHNOM PENH 4159

1. SUMMARY. THE PRESENT TELEGRAM DESCRIBES THE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES THAT U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES C.A.R.E., CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES AND WORLD VISION RELIEF ORGANIZATION, WILL CONDUCT TO MEET THE PLIGHT OF REFUGEES, DISPLACED PERSONS AND OTHER NEEDY KHMERS THROUGH FREE RICE DISTRIBUTIONS. UNITED STATES APPROVAL ON MARCH 7 OF A TITLE II RICE PROGRAM FOR CAMBODIA MADE THESE ACTIVITIES POSSIBLE. WHERE FEASIBLE, THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE COMBINING THE FREE DISTRIBUTION WITH REGULAR ON-GOING ACTIVITIES. NEW AND MORE WIDE-REACHING PROGRAMS HAVE ALSO BEEN DESIGNED WITH THE PARTICULAR GOAL OF PROVIDING FREE RICE TO NEEDY FAMILIES.

2. BY AGREEMENT REACHED ON MARCH 11, THE SYSTEM OF RICE DISTRIBUTION TO REFUGEES, DISPLACED PERSONS AND OTHER NEEDY KHMERS HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY MODIFIED. A PREMISE OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM IS THAT REFUGEES, AFTER RECEIVING THREE MONTHS OF EMERGENCY SUPPORT, ARE ABLE TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF 200 GRAMS OF RICE PER PERSON PER DAY FROM THE EXISTING SUPPLY SYSTEM FOR ALL CAMBODIANS. IN ADDITIONS TO THIS 200 GRAMS, HOWEVER, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH CAMBODIAN RIELS GENERATED BY THE U.S.-FINANCED COMMODITY IMPORT PROGRAM TO PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTE FREE TO REGISTERED REFUGEES AN ADDITIONAL 150 GRAMS PER PERSON PER DAY.

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WITH THE APPROVAL OF A TITLE II RICE PROGRAM, THE REQUIREMENT FOR

SUCH PURCHASES CEASED EXCEPT IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCES (AS EXPLAINED IN PARA 4 BELOW); THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CAN NOW DRAW TITLE II RICE AND PROVIDE IT TO REFUGEES FREE OF CHARGE. THE TITLE II PROGRAM ALSO OFFERS THESE SAME BENEFITS TO NON-REFUGEES WHO ARE EQUALLY IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE. ON MARCH 11, THE MINISTER OF REFUGEES INCREASED THIS FREE ALLOCATION TO 300 GRAMS OF TITLE II RICE, WHICH THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE DRAWING AND WILL DISTRIBUTE TO ALL REFUGEES AND NEEDY KHMERS.

3. U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN THE TITLE II RICE PROGRAM HAVE PUT THE FINAL TOUCHES ON THEIR PLANS FOR COVERAGE OF FEEDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NEEDY IN PHNOM PENH. WHILE THEIR TOTAL REQUIREMENTS ARE BEING REVISED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECISION TO INCREASE FREE DISTRIBUTIONS FROM 150 TO 300 GRAMS, THEIR BASIC APPROACHES REMAIN THE SAME. WORKING CLOSELY IN ORDER TO REACH THE REATEST POSSIBLE NUMBERS OF PERSONS AND KEEP DUPLICATION TO A MINIMUM, THE AGENCIES PLAN TO OPERATE AS FOLLOWS:

A. CATHOLIC RELKPAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WILL BE BENEFICIARIES OF THE CONCURRENT RICE DISTRIBUTION. AS CRS GAINS EXPERIENCE, EVEN GREATER NUMBERS CAN PROBABLY BE REACHED.

B. CARE. THE COVERAGE OF THE CITY BY CARE IS BASED ON THE LOCATION OF SOME 25 PRIMARY SCHOOLS, SELECTED AS THE FEEDING SITES FOR A CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR AGES FROM INFANCY TO SIX YEARS. THE PROGRAM WENT THROUGH ITS PILOT STAGE IN FEBRUARY AND ON MARCH 11 MOVED TO ITS FIRST SCHOOL LOCATION, SERVING OVER 1,000 CHILDREN LIVING IN AN IDENTIFIED AREA AROUND THE SCHOOL. AS AN ADJUNCT TO THIS PROGRAM, BEGINNING MARCH 17, CARE WILL DISTRIBUTE RICE TO THE MOTHERS OF THE CHILDREN IN THE NUTRITION PROGRAM AND TO OTHER CHILDREN IN THE SAME FAMILY. FROM MARCH 11 THROUGH MARCH 23, CARE WILL OPEN ONE NEW FEEDING CENTER A DAY, INCREASING IT TO TWO A DAY FROM MARCH 24 ONWARDS UNTIL A TOTAL OF 25 CENTERS ARE IN OPERATION. THE RICE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM WILL BE OFFERED AT EACH ADDITIONAL CENTER AS IT OPENS. THE NUTRITION PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED TO ASSIST NEEDY CHILDREN AT THE MOST VULNERABLE AGE LEVEL, AND THE INITIAL FEEDING LOCATIONS ARE IN THE SLUM AREAS OF THE CITY. ON THIS BASIS, THE RICE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM WILL ALSO BENEFIT THE IMMEDIATE FAMILIES OF THOSE NEEDY CHILDREN. CARE'S TARGET FOR THE END OF APRIL IS 65,000 CHILDREN IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NUTRITION PROGRAM AND 172,000 MOTHERS AND OTHER CHILDREN IN THE TITLE II RICE PROGRAM.

C. WORLD VISION RELIEF ORGANIZATION (WVRO). MEDICAL TREATMENT OF REFUGEES, DISPLACED PERSONS AND OTHER NEEDY KHMERS IS THE FOCUS OF WVRO'S PROGRAM IN 13 REFUGEE CAMPS IN PHNOM PENH AND SUBURBS, TWO CLINICS, TWO DISPENSARIES, ONE NUTRITION CENTER AND A 500-BED NUTRITION-REHYDRATION CENTER TO BE OPENED ON APRIL 1. IN EXPENDING

ITS OPERATIONS UNDER THE TITLE II RICE PROGRAM, WVRO WILL ADD EIGHT REFUGEE CAMPS, FOR A TOTAL OF 21, AND BEGIN TO OFFER RICE DISTRIBUTION TO THE FAMILIES AND GUARDIANS OF PATIENTS RECEIVING TREATMENT AT WVRO CLINICS AND DISPENSARIES ON BOTH IN-PATIENT AND OUT-PATIENT BASIS. IN ITS RICE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES, WVRO PLANS TO REACH OVER 30,000 PERSONS WITH TITLE II RICE, ALONG WITH NEARLY 27,000 PERSONS IN COMBINATION WITH ITS MEDICAL OPERATIONS. THROUGH THE REHYDRATION CENTER, THE POTENTIAL FOR RICE DISTRIBUTION LIES SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 2,000-3,000 PATIENTS, GUARDIANS AND CHILDREN.

4. TITLE II RICE DISTRIBUTION TO REFUGEES IN THE PROVINCES WILL BE HANDLED BY THE U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. THE EXISTING SYSTEM, UNDER WHICH THE AGENCIES RECEIVE CAMBODIAN RIELS GENERATED BY THE US-FINANCED COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND PURCHASE EITHER LOCAL OR TITLE I RICE FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION TO REFUGEES, WILL PHASE OUT IN SOME PROVINCES AS THE AGENCIES DRAW TITLE II RICE AND AS CONDITIONS PERMIT THE SHIFT. FOR THESE PROVINCES, ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO INCLUDE TITLE II RICE ON THE REGULAR RICE AIRLIFTS SERVICED FROM KOMPONG SOM ON THE GULF OF THAILAND. IN THE NORTHWESTERN AND NORTHERN PROVINCES, AIR TRANSPORT COST FOR TITLE II RICE WOULD MORE THAN EQUAL THE PRICE OF LOCAL RICE. THEREFORE, PROCUREMENT OF LOCAL RICE WILL CONTINUE IN THESE PROVINCES. THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES NOW ARE BEING REVISED TO ADD THE DISTRIBUTION OF RICE TO NEEDY FAMILIES IN THE PROVINCES TO THE REGULAR REFUGEE DISTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.  
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